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PROSPECT OF MANGO CULTURE IN MALDA DISTRICT OF WEST BENGAL; INDIA

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Abstract:-Mango is the national fruit of India.Malda, aDistrict of W.B,is famous for its Mango production and well known as Mango distict.The economy of Malda heavily depended upon horticulture, mango culture.Mango producing Blocks of Malda are mainly Manik Chack, kalia chack, sujapur,Old Malda , chanchal, Gajole,Harischandra pur etc.In this writing I would like to put some light on the problems surrounding the mango cultre and its prospect.

Keywords:Prospect, economy, values, Mango, climate.

INTRODUCTION

Malda is the southernmost district of W.B.,known as gateway of North Bengal. Soil type and climate condition is very much suitable for the cultivation of Mango fruits. Most of the people of the mango producing Blocks of Malda have earned their two-piece from the mango cultivation. There are many problems associated with the mango cultre and there is huge scope of prospect of the economy of Malda through the mango cultivation.

MANGO:

A fleshy fruit, Mango belongs to the genus “Magnifera” consisting of numerous fruiting trees in the family of the flowering Plant. The mango is mainly tropical fruit. The Indian mango is cultivated in many tropical and sub topical regions. In several culturesmango fruits and its leaves are ritually used as floral decorations and religious ceremonies. India ranked top in the world mango production. The important mango producing states in India are Bengal, A.P, Uttarprodesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharastra,Kerala and Orissa. The important mango producing districts of W.B are Malda, Nadia, and Murshidabadetc. Among the different states W.B placed top in production of quality mango and the mango of Malda is famous for its taste and also for its production.

SOIL& CLIMATE USEFUL FOR MANGO CULTRE:

More or less rich, deep and loam soil are very useful for the maximum production of quality mango, but too rich and moist soil make the tree to become vegetative but will be in deficient in fruiting and flowering. The mango performs very well in light soil. It is grown as a dooryard at slightly cooler altitude. Mango responds very well in the rainfall range of 750mm-2500mm in the four summer months of dry (June-September) followed by 8 months of dry sessions. Rain, heavy fog , heavy dews during the blooming sessions are very useful for stimulating, the growth of trees but may hinder the flower production. It may encourage fungus disease of inflosense fruit. Strong winds like different type of cyclones during flowering sessions may affect heavily the flowering of fruits. During the sessions of June – September the production of mango heavily affected due to different types of kalbaisakhi and as result many mangoes fallen prematurely.

SEASONS OF PLANTATION:

Plantation of mango spreads from the month of July to December.

THE IMPORTANT VARIETIES:

The important varieties of mangoes in Malda District as well as in W.B are Langra; Fazli, Himsagar, Laxmanbhog, Gopalbhog, Bomabai, Gulabkhas, Amrapali, Mallika, Gutti, and Aswini etc. Among these varieties, Langra is famous for its beautiful taste and very sensuous flavor. On the other hand Fazli has worldwide fame for its big size and taste.

THE PROCESS OF PLANTATION:

Mango trees start to grow rapidly from the seed. The rate of germination is very high when the seeds are taken from fully ripen fruits. Seeds from polyembryonic mangoes are the most convenient for local international distribution of desirable varieties. The seeds should be fresh, not to be dried up. The seeds should be planted within a few days just after its removal from the fruits. For good result seeds should be covered with the moist earth. Sand dust in a container until it can be kept in a charcoal dust with 45% of humidity. Seeds should then be stored in the taller manner have shown 80% viability even after 75 days. The high rates of germination are obtained if seeds are stored in polyethylene bags but seedlings behavior may be poor.

HARVESTING OF THE FRUIT:

Mangoes are generally harvested after 4/5 months of flowering. Generally fruits of "smudged" trees ripen few months before those of untreated trees. The fruits will be larger and heavier even though harvested 2 weeks before. If fruits are sprayed are at more or less 72 days after the full bloom and harvested 2 weeks after. There will be an improvement in quality in regard to the soluble solids and acidity when the mangoes are full grown and ready for picking, the stem will be snapped easily with the slight pull. If a pull is necessary, the fruit is still somewhat immature and should not be harvested. A long poled picking bag which holds more or less "6" fruits is commonly used by pickers. Before packaging the stems are cut-off 6-7 mm from the base of the fruit.

MEDICAL VALUES OF THE FRUIT:

All parts of mango trees from the seeds and flower to the leaves and gums have many medical values. The mango is very rich in medicinal properties. Each and every part of mango plants are used in the traditional South Asian medicine. The properties of different parts of the plant are mentioned below – roots and bark, leaves, flower, unripe fruits, ripe fruits and seeds. The roots and barks and leaves are acrid, cooling, astringent to the bowels are used to cure "vatta", "pita" and "kapha". The mango flowers are also cooling and astringent to the bowels are generally used to improve the taste of food and raise the appetite, cause "vita", can be help full to cure leucorrhoea, bad blood, good for dysentery, bronchitis, urinary discharges. Dried up flowers serve as astringent in case of diarrhea, chronic dysentery and gonorea. The bark contains magniferine and employed against rheumatism and diphtheria. The resins gums from the trunk are applied on cracks in the skin of the feet and are believed that it would be help full in the disease of syphilis. Mango kernel decoction and powder are used as vermifuges and useful in diarrhea, bleeding, hemorrhoids. The fat is administered in case of stomatitis. Extracts of unripe mango fruits and of barks stems and leaves have shown much antibiotic activity.

ECONOMY OF MALDA BASED ON MANGO:

The economy of malda district have heavily depended on the horticulture specially on the mango culture. The lion share of peasants of this district are employed in the mango culture. Peasants involved in the mango culture are such that growers, labourer, women labor, different type of processing units in formal sector, in informal sector, mahajans, mango exporters, packaging box manufacturing units. Grower belongs to the group of peasants/ Primary stakeholders who grow mango, are different from the burials in the sense that the burials are more like contractors and share profit with the merchants. Growers, on the other hand, invest their own funds, look after their own orchards and finally sell the product themselves to the aratdars. Growers also do not share their profit with any other group of stakeholders who invest money in mango cultivation, which includes buying and selling of mango orchards. The Mahajan appoint bariyals (garden contractor), who purchase/sell orchards on their behalf and also oversee the activities necessary to maintain the orchards during the entire period of cultivation. The merchants share the profit with the grower on pre-specified terms of condition. The mango merchants may or may not have involved directly in their own marketing ripening season. During the ripening season for mango, mango merchants sell the produce either to the local wholesaler (aratdars) or to the exporters. The labourers are mainly working in the mango orchard on daily/weekly payment basis. The Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture (DoFPI&H) or any other govt. certifying agencies Registered different formal processing units. The informal processing units are mainly engaged in selling mango slices to the various registered food processing units for the preparation of pickles. Women are generally engaged to prepare various mango products like Amshawtto, Amchur, etc. and also work in various fruit processing units (locally called SLICE FACTORIES) in both formal and informal sectors during May-August.

Market is the important part of the economy. There are two types of market home market and foreign market. Home market constitute the market where mangoes are sold within the country comprising inter district or interstate. The foreign

market for the mango of malda constitute the market of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Srilanka. Among them Bangladesh is the most important importer of malda's mango. The lion share of mango of malda is exported to the Bangladesh. Among the different varieties of mango produced in the malda district Langra and Fazli have great demand. Malda's mangoes are exported through the international India Bangladesh boarder Mohodipur of malda, Hili of Balurghat district, Changrabandha of Japaiguri district, W.B.

MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING MANGO CULTIVATION IN MALDA; W.B AND POSSIBLE REMEDIES:

Shortage of labour force: There has been an increase in the demand for labour required for maintaining the mango orchard due to increase in employment opportunities in the NREGS and also increase in out migration of labour force out of the state. To prevent migration out of labour many food processing units- formal/ informal need to be established from the part of Govt./Public private partnership.

Lack of cold storage for preserve the ripen fruits: The govt. has to take initiative to setup of required no of cold storage to rescue the mango growers from the huge wastage of rotten mangoes in the period of just harvest.

Lack of infrastructural facilities: The district lacks the necessary infrastructure required for sending the fruit from the garden to town and other areas of the state or country or in abroad. There is also lack of infrastructure required for exporting good quality of mango due to lack of quality certification laboratory of ripening chamber. To solve this problem necessary initiatives have to take from the part of govt.

Unhealthy condition in the Indo Bangladesh boarder: The devastating political situation in Bangladesh affect heavily the trade of mango of malda presently. The importers are not interested to import mango due to frequent strikes, bandhs, hortalsetc. The restoration political stability in Bangladesh is very essential for the trade of mango of malda.

High duty structure: The unfriendly duty structure, the slow pace of processing. Govt. subsidy schemes altogether has put the export of this fruit in tough condition.

CONCLUSION:

There is a huge scope of prospect of the mango of malda if necessary steps would have been taken for healthy infrastructure and for exporting facility to enhance the economy of malda. For the development of the economy of malda, the collective efforts is needed in this direction from central govt., state govt. and all the persons involved in the cultivation of mango.

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